

# BOROUGH OF MOSSLEY.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

FEBRUARY 28th, 1910.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my fourteenth Annual Report.

The number of births registered during the year 1909 was 298, 152 males and 146 females, a decrease from the number in the previous year which was 323. There were 7 illegitimate births registered but no deaths of illegitimate children under 1 year of age, as compared with 8 births and 5 deaths in 1908. The birth rate for the year was 21.3 per 1000 population, a decrease from the rate in the two previous years which was 23.3 and 22.7 respectively. The number of deaths was 218, 93 males and 125 females, a large decrease from the number in the previous year which was 243. A large number of these, viz.:—66 were of aged people over 65 years, and this compares with 72 in 1908 and 49 in 1907. The general death rate was 15.6 per 1000 population as compared with 17.5 in 1908 and 15.3 in 1907. The natural increase at the end of the year being the excess of births above deaths was 80 as compared with 80 in 1908 and 101 in 1907.

There were 12 deaths from zymotic diseases, 3 less than in the previous year, there being 2 due to Measles, 2 Scarlet Fever, 2 Whooping Cough, 1 Diphtheria, 3 Diarrhoea. This gives us a zymotic death rate of .86 per 1000 population as compared with 1.08 in 1908.

The district is a very hilly and straggling one covering nearly 4,000 acres, there is a great deal of clay subsoil and consequently a continual dampness, which latter quality aids in the spinning of cotton, which is the chief industry of the place, woollen weaving and a small amount of iron founding being also done. None of these are particularly injurious to the public health, though there is still room for improvement in many of the card rooms in the mills in the shape of exhaust fans to clear the air of dust which in some cases causes Asthma in people continually working in them. House accommodation for the working classes is very fair, there being very few under houses, and back to back ones, though there is room for improvement in the area at the back of many rows of cottages, and common to all, which might be paved or tiled with a distinct benefit to the sanitary state of these places. Cottages with three bedrooms are badly wanted. There are a few crowded places but the general surroundings of the cottages are clean and it is seldom we are without wind. All plans of new houses are examined by the Surveyor and passed by the Council before they are erected, and on completion the premises are examined by the Surveyor, all drains tested and certificates granted.



The water supply is plentiful and good, the greater part of the town being supplied from Swineshaw reservoir, where the water is continually treated with whiting to counteract plumbo-solvency, before it is allowed to go into consumption, this treatment being very necessary in this particular water. A small portion of the town is supplied from Yeonian Hey reservoir, the source of both supplies being moorland, but most of the water consumed from this source is spring water, and does not contain the same amount of acidity as the Swineshaw water.

There have been no cases of lead poisoning due to this cause during the year.

I have constantly examined samples for acidity during the year but have never found any appreciable amount that was likely to cause trouble. So long as the water is treated with whiting and not allowed to stand in the pipes we find no trace of lead in it.

Milk samples are taken and examined by representatives of the County Council. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops are periodically inspected and the cleanliness of the utensils noted. Many of these buildings are in very poor condition but they are gradually being renovated, and in some cases rebuilt, but this work is not being carried out by the landlords as quickly as it might. In all new shippings 800 cubic feet air space per cow is allowed.

The taking of food samples is under the County Council. An Inspector examines the meat to be sold in the town but he does not hold a special certificate in meat inspection, but if he is at all suspicious of any meat the Veterinary Surgeon is called in to examine it, and if found diseased it is seized and destroyed. In addition to this the Veterinary Surgeon periodically inspects the meat. No meat has been found tuberculous or otherwise unfit for food during the year.

The Council have not taken any action to cause dairy cows in the district to be examined by the Veterinary Surgeon for tuberculosis. There are 6 slaughter-houses in the district, but they are not visited by the Inspector at the time of slaughtering; their condition is very fair and they are kept clean and regularly whitewashed. There are three tripe dressing shops which are kept in good condition.

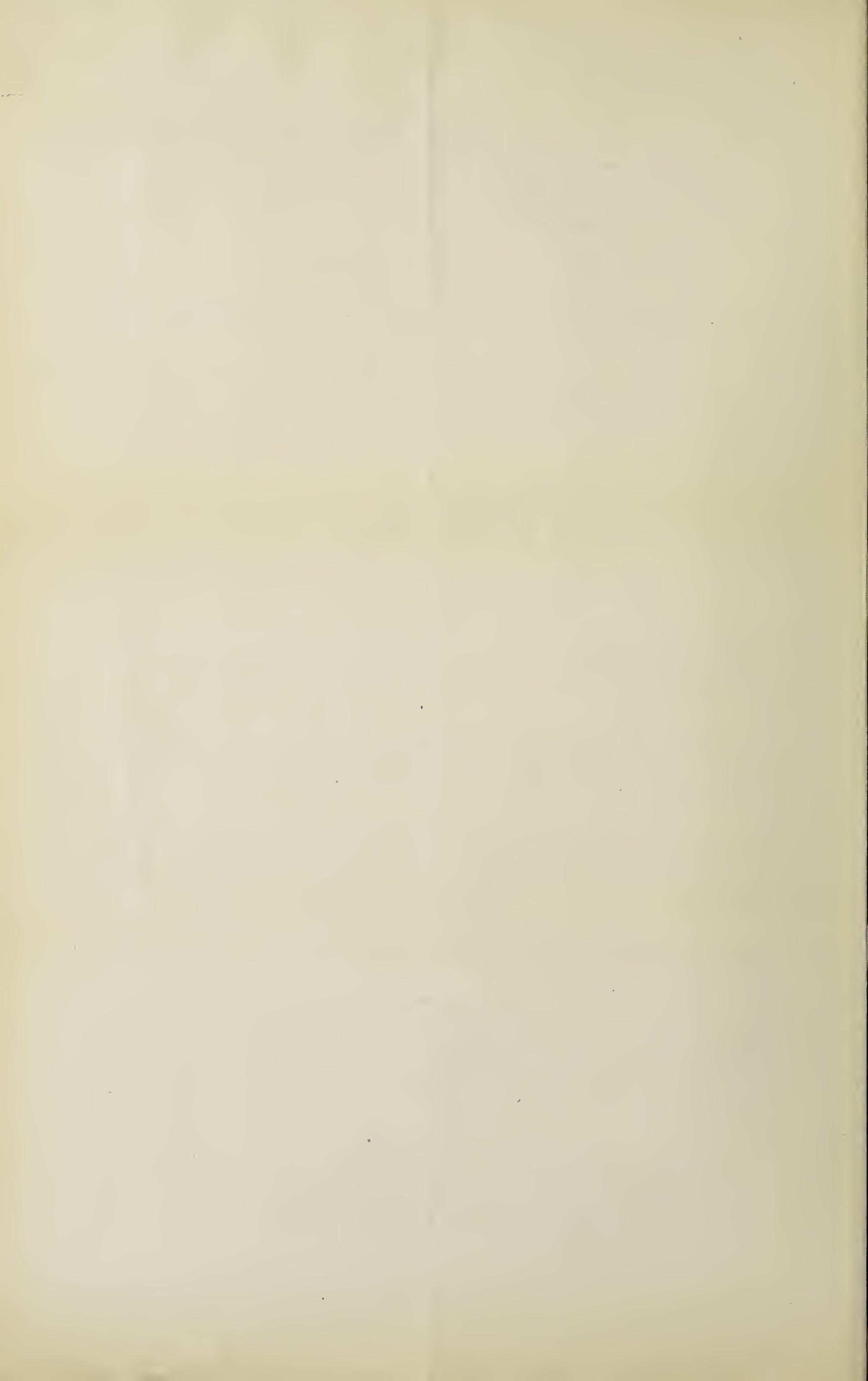
The new sewer in Roughtown has been completed and all the houses in the vicinity have been connected to it. The sewage is treated by septic tanks and filter beds, and the new additional filtering area and storm water stand-by tanks are now completed and in full working order; and the character of the effluent is good.

The disposal of excrement is mostly by the pail system, emptied once a week, of these there are 2785; fresh water closets 157, waste water closets 137. There are still 9 middens in outlying places, since last year 5 have been converted to the pail system. House refuse is removed weekly to a tip. We have no destructor.

There were 114 notices served for nuisances and 124 were remedied, some of these being served in 1908, but in no case were illegal proceedings taken. There are two registered common lodging houses which are fair.

The sanitary condition of the schools is good, each one being disinfected every week with a spray of cyllin. The water supplied to schools is in each case town's water. In case of infectious diseases all scholars from infected houses are excluded from the schools and the infected children isolated in their own homes. The usual infectious diseases are notifiable, but not measles, mumps or phthisis. There is an isolation hospital, 8 beds for small-pox only, this is clean and the accommodation is moderate and sufficient. There were no cases during the year.

Disinfection of houses and bedrooms is done by means of cyllin in a spray and in some cases a solution of chlorine. Garments and bedding are taken to a room at the Sewage Works and disinfected in a Delepine Thresh Disinfector. We have no system of notifying pulmonary tuberculosis other than in the case of parish patients. When practicable, the rooms used by such patients are disinfected after death, or removal. We have no hospital accommodation for such cases.



At the end of January there was an epidemic of Mumps in Roughtown necessitating the closing of the Infant Department for a fortnight. I made a special report on this matter. On June 10th I made a special report on an outbreak of measles in St. George's School Infant Department, and advised the closing of same until June 21st. In October there were a great number of children suffering from measles at Carrbrook but the school in this case is just outside the boundary. On November 30th I visited Trinity Place, Roughtown, together with the Inspector of Nuisances and certified the filthy and unwholesome condition of four of the cottages. This matter is being dealt with at the moment.

There were a number of cases of Whooping Cough during the last quarter of the year and two deaths from this cause.

There were 20 deaths from tubercular diseases as compared with 22 in the previous year. These cases were equally distributed over the whole district. In October there was one death due to poisoning set up by eating mushrooms. Two people had partaken of the same dish, husband and wife, both were taken ill, but the husband only recovered.

There were 69 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, 16 between 1 and 5 years, 35 between 5 and 15, 8 between 15 and 25, and 10 between 25 and 65. 19 cases occurred in Lancashire Ward, 19 in Cheshire Ward, and 31 in Yorkshire Ward. This is a slight increase on the previous year which was 66.

From October 2nd to the end of the year we were entirely free from infectious disease. The largest number of cases of one disease was 53 of Scarlet Fever. The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1899, the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act and the Public Health Amendment Act 1890, are all in force in the district. The Notification of Births Act 1907 has not been adopted.

The following table shews the number of cases notified, and deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases :—

DISEASE	NOTIFIED CASES				DEATHS	
Small Pox	...	...	0	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	53	...	..	2
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup			6	...	...	1
FEVER	Typhus Enteric Continued	...	0	...	...	0
		...	3	...	...	2
		...	0	..	...	0
Measles	...	...	0	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	0	...	...	3

In cases where infectious diseases were notified the houses were visited by myself and the inspector, disinfectants supplied, printed instructions to prevent the spread of the disease left, and at the termination of the cases the houses were again visited, the sick rooms disinfected, beds and bedding removed and disinfected in the Delepine Thresh Disinfecter. Though there were 53 cases of Scarlet Fever notified as compared with 40 in the previous year, the disease was of a mild type and there were only two deaths from it. The majority of cases occurred during the first half of the year, and Yorkshire Ward suffered most. There was a decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria, 6 only as compared with 20 in the previous year, and only one death. They were all sporadic cases and occurred in different parts of the town. All cases are treated with diphtheria antitoxin supplied at the expense of the Corporation.

There were 5 cases of Erysipelas and one death, the other cases being very mild ones.

There were 3 cases of enteric fever and 2 deaths, two cases occurred in one house in Yorkshire Ward, one of which, a child of 4 died, the cause could not be traced, the drains of the property had recently been put into sanitary condition by the landlord; the third case was in Cheshire Ward, cause not traced. In all cases the water and milk supply were without suspicion.



There were 2 cases of puerperal fever, both occurred in Cheshire Ward. In one case there was a waste pipe leading from slop-stone and emptying over the river without any intervening trap in a kitchen leading off room where patient was lying in. The administration of the Midwives Act is under the jurisdiction of the Lancashire County Council.

With regard to Infant mortality there were 29 deaths of infants under 1 year as compared with 37 and 34 in the previous two years, 13 of these occurred in the first month of life, from congenital defects, premature birth and debility. In the case of the older ones the chief causes of death were debility, bronchitis and pneumonia. All the midwives are supplied with cards of printed instructions for the care and feeding of infants, and every mother they attend is supplied with one of these, and her attention called to the main facts.

I am continually visiting Factories, etc., and whenever any nuisance is found attention is called to it. In addition to this, inspections are made by the Nuisance Inspector. Of the 3 notices received from the Factory Inspector re closets, one has been completely remedied by water closets being constructed and connected to the sewer, another has been improved, but in the case of the Hart Mills, in which there are closets without intervening ventilating spaces, nothing has yet been done. Of the 3 notices received re Fire Escapes, 2 have been remedied but nothing done in the third case.

The systematic Inspection of the whole of the borough is being gradually carried out. Up to date about 1800 houses have been inspected, and notices to remedy any insanitary condition served on the owner of the properties.

The notable sanitary improvements carried out in 1909 are the enlargement of the Sewage Works and the completion of the Roughtown sewer. I now give Tables of Mortality, Births and Deaths Rates, etc., as required by the Government Board.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HEALEY, M.B., Ch B.

*Medical Officer of Health.*



**TABLE I.**  
**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.**

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District			
		Number	Rate	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.				Number	Rate		
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
1899	14878	329	22.1	56	170.2	242	16.2			242	16.2		
1900	15009	336	22.3	44	130.9	228	15.2			229	15.2		
1901	13452	317	23.5	33	113.1	260	19.3			262	19.3		
1902	13498	279	20.6	30	107.5	182	13.4	1	18	200	14.8		
1903	13570	255	18.8	27	105.9	187	13.8		18	205	15.1		
1904	13633	278	20.4	39	140.2	178	13.0		28	206	15.1		
1905	13628	239	17.5	42	175.7	211	15.5		15	226	16.6		
1906	13661	259	18.9	31	119.6	186	13.6		16	202	14.7		
1907	13750	312	22.7	34	109.0	191	13.8		20	211	15.3		
1908	13838	323	23.3	37	114.5	219	15.8		24	243	17.5		
Averages for years 1899-1908	13891.7	292.7	21.01	37.3	128.6	208	14.9		20	222.6	15.9		
1909	13937	298	21.3	29	97.3	199	14.3		19	218	15.6		

Total Population at all ages, 13452. Number of Inhabited houses, 3040. Average number of persons per house, 4.4  
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 3929.



**TABLE II.**  
**Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1909 and Previous Years.**

NAMES OF LOCALITIES		Whole District				Lancashire Ward				Cheshire Ward				Yorkshire Ward			
Year		Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year
1899	...	14878	329	242	56												
1900	...	15009	336	229	44												
1901	...	13452	317	262	33	4629		102	11	4701		89	13	4122		71	12
1902	...	13498	279	200	30	4633	78	76	7	4726	118	72	13	4139	83	52	10
1903	...	13570	255	205	27	4656	84	68	9	4756	95	74	12	4158	76	63	6
1904	...	13633	278	206	39	4674	76	68	12	4784	105	63	15	4175	97	75	12
1905	..	13628	239	226	42	4679	81	72	14	4770	87	92	16	4179	91	62	12
1906	...	13661	259	202	31	4677	68	78	9	4795	116	67	12	4189	75	57	10
1907	...	13750	312	211	34	4675	85	72	8	4870	134	68	14	4205	93	71	12
1908	..	13838	323	243	37	4680	91	86	10	4913	117	83	15	4245	115	74	12
Averages of Years 1899-1908		13891.7	292.7	222.6	37.3												
1909	...	13937	298	218	29	4711	95	73	10	4948	117	80	11	4278	86	65	8



**TABLE III.**  
**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.**

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in whole District.					Total Cases notified in each Locality.		
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	Lanc'shire Ward	Cheshire Ward	Yorkshire Ward
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	3	3			3	2	1
Erysipelas	5				5	2		3
Scarlet Fever	53	13	31	7	2	14	14	25
Enteric Fever	3		1	1	1		1	2
Puerperal Fever	2				2		2	
Totals	69	16	35	8	10	19	19	31

Isolation Hospital, May Hills, Lancashire Ward, for Smallpox only.

Total available beds 8.



TABLE IV  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1909.

Causes of Death	Deaths at the Subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to localities whether occurring in or beyond the District.			Total deaths whether of residents or non-residents in Public Institutions in the District 12
	All Ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and upwards 8	L. 9	C. 10	Y. 11		
Measles ...	2	1	1						1	1	2	
Scarlet Fever ...	2		1	1						2	2	
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1							2	2	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	1		1					1			1	
Fever, Enteric ...	2		1			1			1	1	2	
Epidemic Influenza .	3						3	2	1		3	
Diarrhoea ...	3	2				1			1	2	3	
Enteritis ...	1						1	1			1	
Gastritis ...	3		1			1	1	1	1	1	3	
Puerperal Fever ...	2					2			2		2	
Erysipelas ...	1					1		1			1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	17		1		1	15		6	5	6	17	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	3		2			1		1	2		3	
Cancer, malignant disease... ...	12					7	5	4	5	3	12	
Bronchitis ...	20	4	2			5	9	6	8	6	20	
Pneumonia ...	18	3	3		1	7	4	9	8	1	18	
Pleurisy ...	2					1	1		1	1	2	
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver... ...	2					2		1	1		2	
Premature Birth ..	4	4						1	3		4	
Diseases and Accidents of parturition... ...	1					1		1			1	
Heart Diseases ...	24	2		1	2	11	8	8	9	7	24	
Accidents ...	5		3			2		1	3	1	5	
Suicides ...	2					2		1		1	2	
All other causes ...	86	12	3		4	33	34	28	28	30	86	
All causes ...	218	29	20	2	8	93	66	73	80	65	218	



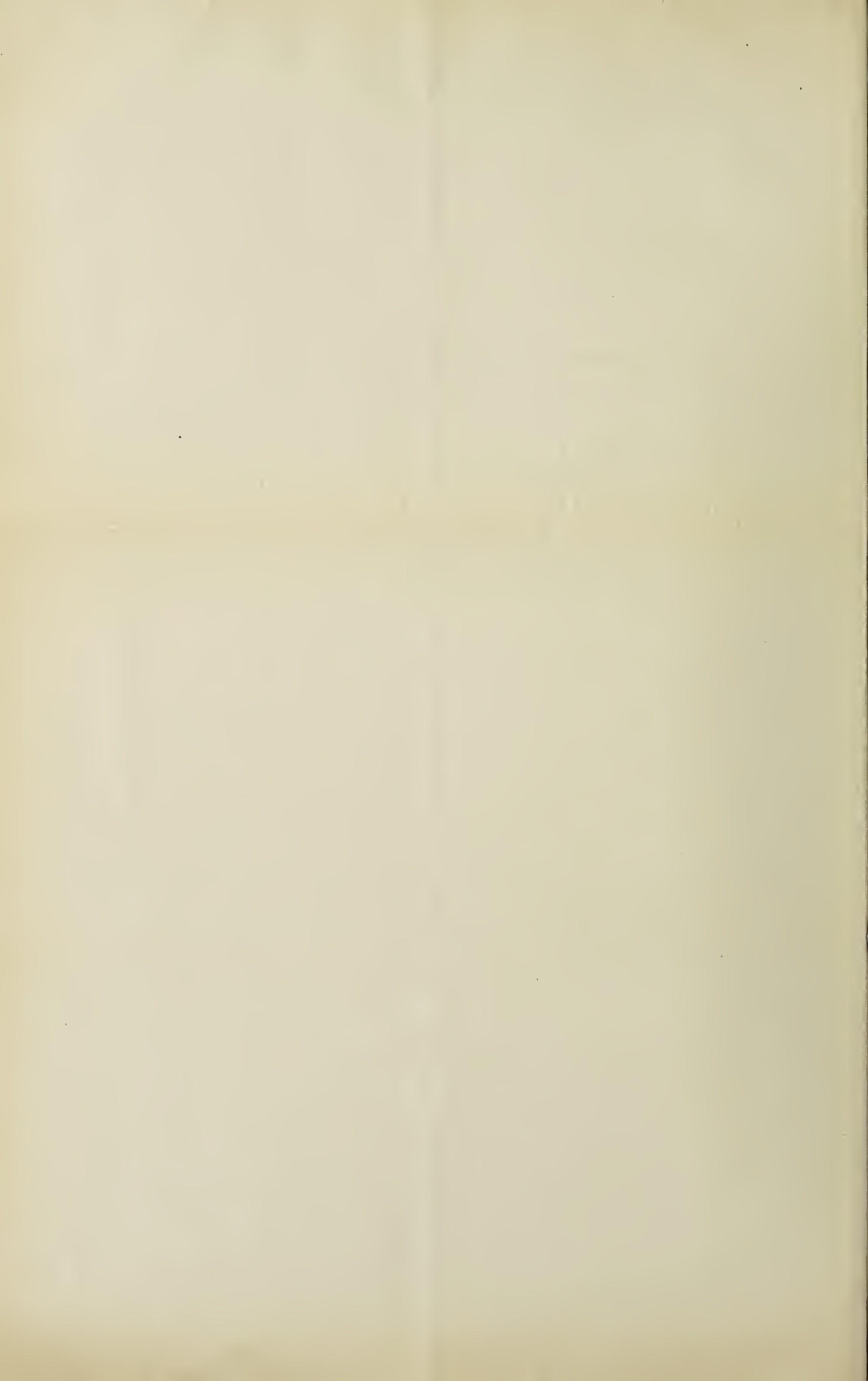
TABLE V.  
Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.												Total Deaths under One Year	
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	7-8 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	
ALL CAUSES														
Certified	... 8	... 2	... 1	... 2	13	5	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	29
Measles	...											1		1
Whooping Cough	...	...												1
Diarrhoea, all forms				1		1								2
Premature Birth	...	...	3	1		4								4
Congenital Defects	...	...	2	1		3								3
Injury at Birth	...	...	1			1								1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	1			1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1		9
Convulsions	...	...	1			1								1
Bronchitis	...	...					1	1			1		1	4
Pneumonia	...	...								1		1	1	3
	8	2	1	2	13	5	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	29

Population (estimated to middle of 1909) 13,937.      Births in the year, legitimate 291, illegitimate 7.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 29; illegitimate infants 0.      Deaths from all causes at all ages, 218.



# **Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1909, for the Borough of Mossley.**

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**On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with**

## **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.**

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### **I—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

**Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.**

Premises 1	Number of		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices 3	Prosecutions 4
<b>Factories</b> ... ... ... ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	20	6	...
<b>Workshops</b> ... ... ... ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	50	...	...
<b>TOTAL</b>	70	6	



## 2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

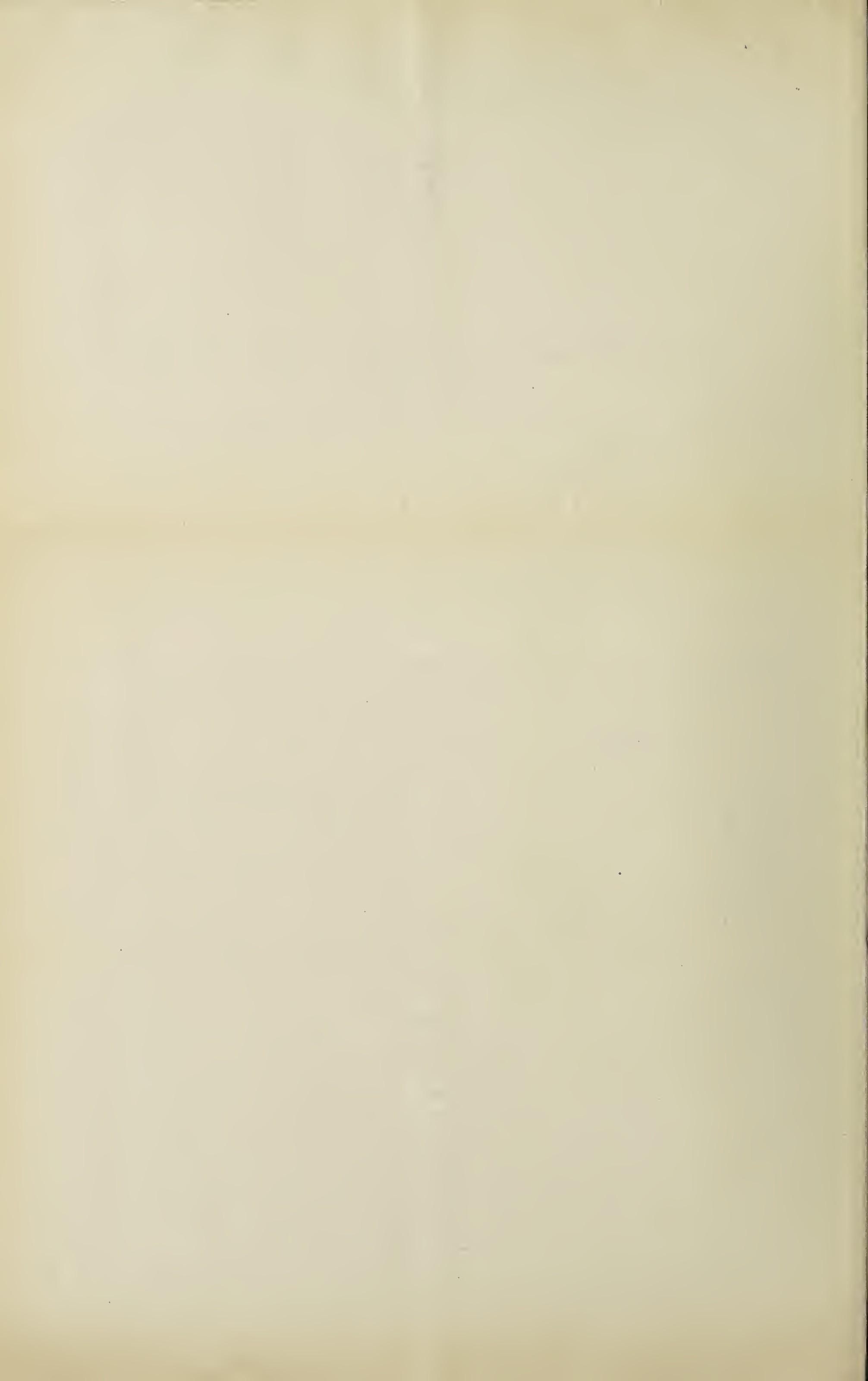
Particulars 1	Number of Defects	
	Found 2	Remedied 3
<b>NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:—</b>		
Other Nuisances—Want of Fire Escapes ... ... ...	3	2
Sanitary Accommodation—Unsuitable or defective .. .. ..	3	2
Total ... ... ...	6	4

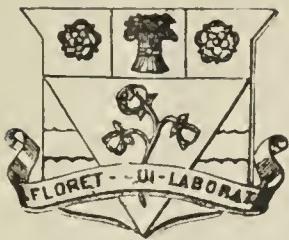
4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.		5—OTHER MATTERS.	
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. 1	Number 2	Class 1	Number 2
Bakehouses ... ... ...	50	Action taken in matters referred by H.M Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s 5) :—	
Others ... ... ...	45	Notified by H.M Inspector ... ...	3
Total Number of Workshops on Register ...	95	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ... ... ...	3
		Fire Escapes ... ... ... ...	3

Important classes of workshop bakeshops, such as workshop bakeshops, may be enumerated here.

February 28th, 1910.

JOHN HEALEY, Medical Officer of Health.





# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES of the Borough of Mossley, 1909.

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE MOSSLEY CORPORATION.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Fifth Annual Report.

## DRAINAGE.

During the year 1909, 40 houses have been connected to the main sewer. 140 lineal yards of 12 inch earthenware pipes, 250 lineal yards of 9 inch earthenware pipes, 300 lineal yards of 6 inch earthenware pipes, 340 lineal yards of 4 inch earthenware pipes have all been laid. 150 gullies have been fixed under waste pipes.

Roughtown sewer has been completed, and all sewage from the property adjacent to this sewer has been connected to it instead of it being allowed to run on to the adjoining lands. Stamford Mill has been connected to the main sewer.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

70 Inspections of premises have been made and 6 notices served asking for alterations to defective sanitary arrangements.

## DISINFECTION.

Disinfection has been carried out at every house where Notifiable Infectious Disease has occurred and the bedding and clothes removed and disinfected in the machine at the sewage works, 122 rooms and 581 articles have been dealt with. All the schools in the Borough are regularly disinfected once every week during term time.

## LODGING HOUSES.

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in this Borough which are continually under inspection.

## NUISANCES.

114 complaints of nuisances have been served and 90 remedied.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSE AND TRIPE BOILING PLACES.

There are 6 Slaughter Houses and 3 Tripe Boiling establishments.

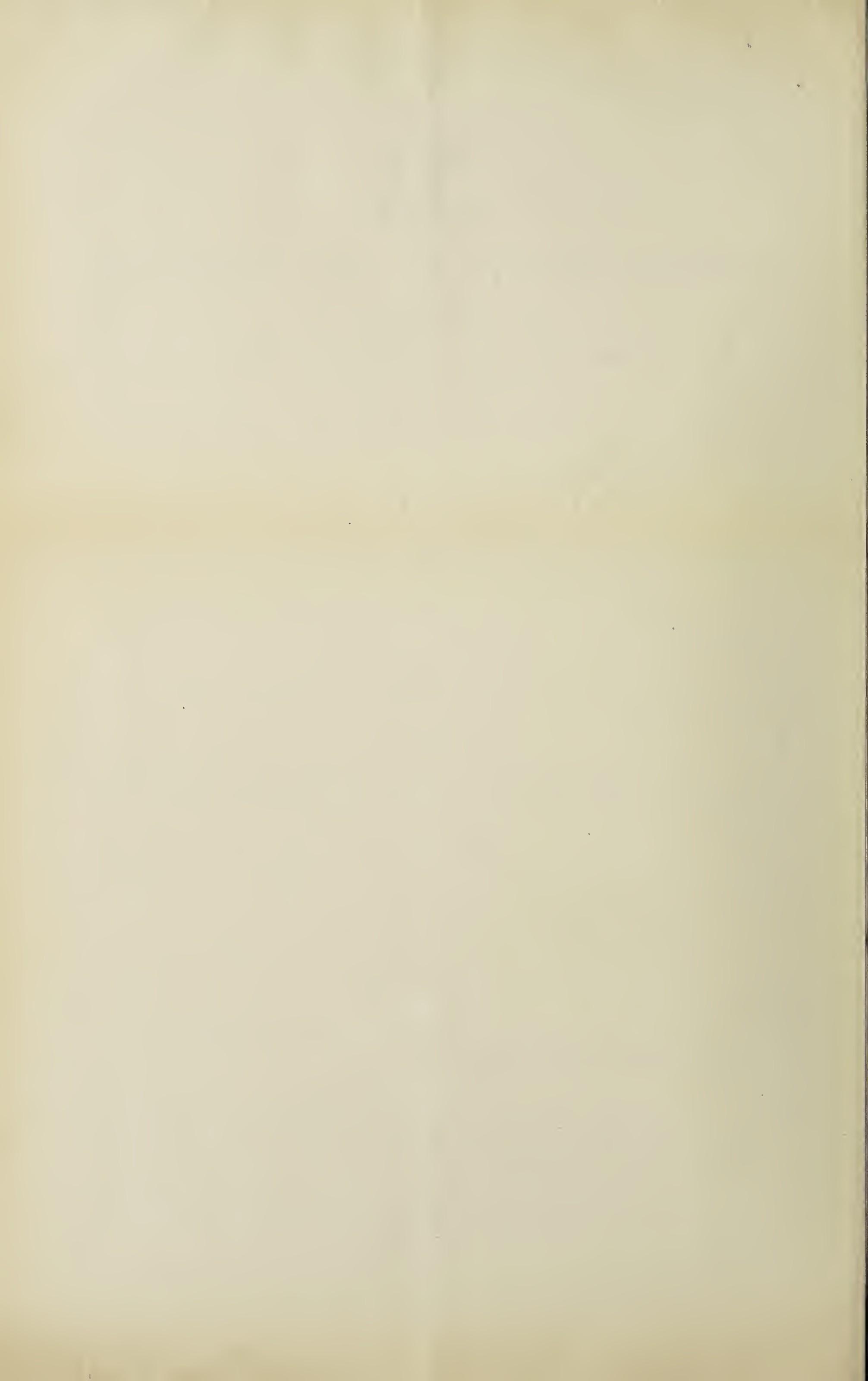
## BAKEHOUSES.

There are 50 Bakehouses in the Borough, most of these being composed of cottages where people bake bread for disposal in the immediate neighbourhood.

## SEWAGE WORKS.

These Works have been considerably enlarged during 1909, Rake Chambers and Detritus pits have been built at the old works, and 4½ acres of land purchased, on which have been constructed 18 large filters, having a capacity of 4,000 cubic yards of filtering material and constructed in such a manner that the top 9 filters can discharge on to the lower 9 filters.

Two storm tanks have been constructed having a total capacity of 100,000 gallons. The effluent and storm water have been conveyed to the new works through an existing tunnel in cast iron pipes laid side by side.



#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

There are 22 Farms, 60 Cowsheds and 4 Milkshops in this Borough, and 16 Purveyors of milk from surrounding districts ; all are registered.

There have been no new Cowsheds built this year and several of the farms require a large amount of attention as regards drainage, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

18 new houses have been built and the Sewage Works enlarged, a large amount of attention has been paid to existing property such as repairing, painting, pointing and re-draining.

#### HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

About half of the property in the town has undergone an inspection comprising 1557 houses, a large amount of work has been done chiefly in trapping drains, and attention to rain water spouts, troughing and gutters.

9 fresh water closets have been built, 8 waste water, 36 dry box closets.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. BUCKLEY.

